

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-07 COME-00 OIC-02
OPIC-03 AGR-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 /110 W
-----007585 030450Z /17

P R 030335Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7059
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18735

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN, TH
SUBJECT: US-ASEAN DIALOGUE: AUGUST 3-4 WASHINGTON MEETING

REF: STATE 164743

1. CHARGE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF JUNE 30 MEETING WITH MFA UNDERSECRE-
TARY ARUN TO DISCUSS SOME OF POINTS RAISED REFTEL.

2. WITH REGARD TO QUESTION OF MINISTERIAL PARTICIPATION, ARUN
SAID THAT FONMIN UPADIT WAS LIKELY TO GO TO WASHINGTON BUT HAD NOT
YET CONFIRMED THIS TO HIS STAFF. ARUN WAS COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDING
ON QUESTION OF ECONOMIC MINISTERIAL PARTICIPATION TO ASSURE
APPROPRIATE SUBSTANTIVE ATTENTION TO ISSUES AS WELL AS GIVING
SYMBOLIC EMPHASIS TO ECONOMIC NATURE OF DIALOGUE. HE PROMISED TO
CONVEY OUR VIEWS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER CONCERNED
MINISTRIES. HOWEVER, ARUN NOTED THAT HE SUSPECTED RTG WOULD
PROBABLY SEND A SENIOR ECONOMIC DEPUTY MINISTER, POSSIBLY COMMERCE
DEPUTY MINISTER PROK.

ARUN SAID THAT THE THAI CABINET STRUCTURE HAD NO SINGLE ECONOMIC
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MINISTER CLEARLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE/ECONOMIC
ISSUES. SINCE THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, INDUSTRY, AND COMMERCE,
ALL HAVE SUCH MAJOR VESTED INTERESTS ON THESE ISSUES, ARUN SAID
HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ANY ONE OF THEM TO BE
CHOSEN. CONSEQUENTLY, HE THOUGHT ONE OF ECONOMIC DEPUTY MINISTERS
(WHO ARE CABINET MEMBERS) , WOULD BE UP GOING.

3. CHARGE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH ARUN THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTRIBUTED TO PRESERVING THE ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC CHARACTER OF THE WASHINGTON MEETING WHILE PROVIDING TIME FOR MINISTERS TO RAISE INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS WHICH THEY MIGHT WANT TO DISCUSS. ON THE ONE HAND, ARUN SAID THAT RTG DID RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC ISSUES ON THE AGENDA AND HAD NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY ABOUT EMPHASIZING THIS PUBLICLY, INDEED HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RTG CONTINUES TO HOPE THERE WOULD BE CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT COULD PUBLICIZE WHEN HE RETURNED TO THAILAND. HOWEVER, ARUN ALSO INDICATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT AND OTHER ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LOOK FORWARD TO SOME EXCHANGES ON THE OVERALL SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY WOULD EXPECT TO SOME OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS.

6. CHARGE WILL BE SEEING FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT ON JULY 3 WITH AMBASSADOR SNEIDER AND WE WILL USE OCCASION TO DISCUSS ABOVE WITH HIM.
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